

At a disciplinary hearing this morning (Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2012) one of our officers was terminated from their employment as a result of being found guilty of five counts of misconduct.

Earlier last year a member was charged with deceit (x2), discreditable conduct (x2) and one count of insubordination. The hearing into all five counts occurred in October 2012, with the presiding officer finding the member guilty of all five counts in December 2012.....

This did not have to happen.

Swearing any false information, creating false notes or fabricating information is completely unacceptable, and will not be tolerated. In this member's case it had been done to try and protect the identity of a confidential source. While these actions are never permissible, and can even be criminal in nature, under the member's circumstances, if this conduct had been in isolation, the penalty may not have been dismissal. However, the member was also found guilty of lying to Professional Standards Branch. As the EPA and I have previously stated repeatedly, lying is never acceptable. Lying is extremely serious and dismissal from the Police Service is almost a certainty when it involves a Professional Standards Branch investigation or court proceedings. As I have said in a previous article to the members of the EPS, it is important for all members to know that as an organization, we are not interested in seeing anyone terminated. Our employees are the heart and soul of the EPS, and disciplinary actions are hard on all of us.

Should you have any questions or be uncertain about any aspect of handling a confidential source contact a member of Source Management Witness Protection Unit before you do anything. If you find yourself involved in a matter being investigated by PSB, I strongly encourage you to seek out the advice of a member of the Edmonton Police Association prior to providing a statement or attending an interview. If you are struggling with a personal or professional issue or a dilemma, talk to a supervisor or an informed colleague before things escalate and get out of hand. Rely on your leaders and mentors for guidance.

We need to continue to focus on ethical and professional behaviour. All of us need to be professional, do our best, and above all, tell the truth.

Chief Rod Knecht